

National Association of Sentencing Commissions

2000 Conference Program

The Westin William Penn, Pittsburgh PA

August 6 – 8, 2000

“Structured Sentencing in a New Millennium”

Since Judge Marvin Frankel proposed the establishment of sentencing commissions in the early 1970's, many jurisdictions have adopted policies that attempt to structure sentencing and corrections decision-making. This seventh annual conference provides an opportunity to draw on thirty years of research and experience in order to plan for the future. The conference will include resource tables and exhibits as well as sessions that cover Sentencing Fundamentals, Emerging Issues, Information Technology & Research, and Sentencing Guideline Applications.

Sunday, August 6, 2000

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Registration & Reception

Monday, August 7, 2000

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Registration & Continental Breakfast

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Welcome & Introductions

Chief Justice John P. Flaherty, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

Representative Frank Dermody, Chair, Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing

Senator Jeffrey Piccola, Vice Chair, Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

PLENARY SESSION -- Benefits & Limitations of Sentencing Guidelines

Keynote Speaker: Judge Richard P. Conaboy, Senior Judge (*invited*)

U. S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania

Former Chair, United States Sentencing Commission (1994-1998)

Former Chair, Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing (1979-1982)

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Break

10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

BREAKOUT SESSION #1

Track A (Fundamentals)

Primary Guideline Factors

Barbara Tombs (KS), Panel

Chair

Sentencing guidelines are generally based on a limited number of objective factors, although the manner in which these factors are measured vary greatly from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. This session will address common factors used in sentencing guidelines, such as current offense and criminal history, and different measures of these factors.

Track B (Emerging Issues)

Juvenile Guidelines & Dispositions

Fritz Rauschenberg (OH), Panel

Chair

The increase in the rate and seriousness of juvenile crime, the increased costs of juvenile dispositions, and a movement toward adoption of the 'balanced approach' by juvenile courts have all contributed to consideration of 'structured sentencing' initiatives in a number of jurisdictions. This session will address the development in some states of juvenile court guidelines and the use of innovative dispositions.

Track C (Information Technology & Research)

Data Management & Integration

Debra Dailey (MN), Panel Chair

In some jurisdictions, sentencing data is obtained through an integrated criminal justice information system. However, in many states, the sentencing commission gathers information independently. This session will address various methods for obtaining, managing and integrating sentencing data, as well as security and warehousing of data sets.

Track D (Guideline Training Session)

PA Sentencing Guidelines Training/Part 1

Carrie Peters (PA), Panel Chair

The Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing will be conducting a regularly-scheduled guideline training session at the conference site. NASC conference participants are welcome to attend any session at no charge. This first session will address Pennsylvania sentencing fundamentals and begin application of the guidelines.

11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

BREAK

12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

LUNCH -- The Federal View of Sentencing

SPEAKER: Sen. Arlen Specter, United States Senate (PA) (*invited*)
Senate Judiciary Committee

1:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

BREAK

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

BREAKOUT SESSION #2

Track A (Fundamentals)

Guideline Recommendations

Cynthia Kempinen (PA), Panel Chair

Each jurisdiction develops guidelines responsive to a unique set of purposes and circumstances. As a result, guideline systems vary in the manner in which factors are combined and weighed, how recommendations account for multiple offenses, the width of ranges, the presumptiveness of the guidelines, and the level of appellate review. This session will highlight some of these different approaches.

Track B (Emerging Issues)

Guidelines for Community Supervision

Michael Connelly (MD), Panel

Chair

Prison populations and the time served by offenders in confinement are affected by sentencing, release and re-commitment policies. Sentencing guidelines address only admissions and the length of the stated period of confinement. This session will address the recent developments in several jurisdictions of guidelines related to post-release supervision of offenders in the community.

Track C (Information Technology & Research)

Correctional Projections & Forecasting

Susan Katzenelson (NC), Panel

Chair

On May 11-12, 2000, the North Carolina Sentencing Commission hosted a Correctional Population Projections workshop that focused on both the technical aspects of forecasting and its implication and use in formulating policy. This session will provide an overview of the issues addressed during the workshop and a discussion of some best practices in use throughout the nation.

Track D (Guideline Training Session)

PA Sentencing Guidelines Training/Part 2

Carrie Peters (PA), Panel Chair

The Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing will be conducting a regularly-scheduled guideline training session at the conference site. NASC conference participants are welcome to attend any session at no charge. This second session will continue the discussion of the application of Pennsylvania's 1997 sentencing guidelines from the first session.

3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

BREAK

3:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

BREAKOUT SESSION #3

Track A (Fundamentals)

Resources for New Commissions

Kim Hunt (DC), Panel Chair

This session will address organizational fundamentals, such as composition of commissions and processes for implementing guidelines, as well as identify sources of expertise and technical assistance for developing sentencing guidelines. In addition to the support available from NASC member agencies, other resources to be discussed include universities, external consultants, federal agencies, and VERA's State Sentencing & Corrections Program.

Track B (Emerging Issues)

Politics, the Media, and Sentencing Data

Richard Kern (VA), Panel Chair

During the 1990's, sentencing practices and criminal justice policies became high profile issues. With rapid advances in information technology during this period, sentencing data has increasingly been used to inform policy discussions and public debate. This session will address appropriate uses and potential abuses of sentencing data, and discuss the release of information and the need to maintain objectivity in a politically-charged environment.

Track C (Information Technology & Research)

Using Research to Refine Guidelines Kevin Blackwell (US), Panel Chair

Most sentencing commissions are charged with the responsibility of studying sentencing practices and the impact of sentencing guidelines. Examples of research published in recent years include disparity in sentencing, prison population growth, and the effectiveness of sentencing programs such as drug & alcohol treatment, boot camps and intermediate sanctions. This session will address both research design and findings of recent studies on sentencing.

Track D (Guideline Training Session)

PA Sentencing Guidelines Training/Part 3

Carrie Peters (PA), Panel Chair

The Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing will be conducting a regularly-scheduled guideline training session at the conference site. NASC conference participants are welcome to attend any session at no charge. This third session will begin with a demonstration of the Pennsylvania SGS software application and include example cases and form completion exercises.

4:45 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

BREAK

5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

DINNER CRUISE & NASC JEOPARDY

Join your colleagues, bring your family! Enjoy a relaxing NASC chartered dinner cruise on the three rivers. This is a great opportunity to see the city at night, to network with colleagues, and to participate in NASC Jeopardy, a fun way to win prizes while reviewing key issues from the conference sessions! Get 'river views' of the Allegheny County Jail and the State Correctional Institution at Pittsburgh. **One-hour reception provided by the Duquesne University School of Law.**

Tuesday, August 8, 2000

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Breakout Breakfast

Another opportunity for networking with colleagues from across the country. Rooms provided for the following: Executive Directors, Commission Members, Interest Areas

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

PLENARY SESSION -- Crime Rates & Population Growth in U.S. Prisons

Keynote Speaker: Alfred Blumstein, J. Erik Jonsson University Professor

H. John Heinz III School of Public Policy and Management
Carnegie Mellon University

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	BREAK
10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	BREAKOUT SESSION #4 Breakout by state to discuss current issues, as well as summarize information learned through conference and identify issues that should be covered in future conferences. Re convene to share in plenary setting
11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	BREAK
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	LUNCH WITH BUSINESS MEETING & CONFERENCE CLOSING

General Conference Information

Conference Registration: Registration includes a one-year NASC membership, conference materials, receptions and lunch on Monday and Tuesday of the conference. Cost of registration is \$165 by July 15; late registration (after July 15) is \$185. Conference will include vendors and resource tables. Registration form found on next page or available at: <http://pcs.la.psu.edu>

Dinner Cruise: A Monday evening chartered dinner cruise on Pittsburgh's three rivers, starting with a one-hour reception provided by the Duquesne University School of Law, and including a delicious Captain's Dinner Buffet and a quick-paced version of NASC Jeopardy with prizes for every correct answer! Family and friends are encouraged to attend. Boarding begins at 5:30 p.m.; the boat departs at 6:00 p.m. and returns at 9:00 p.m. NASC Jeopardy categories include: Sentencing Fundamentals, Emerging Issues, IT & Research, NASC Guidelines (the NASC Newsletter), and Pennsylvania Potpourri. Dinner cruise ticket price: \$40 by July 15; \$50 after July 15 (price includes tokens for transportation to/from dock).

Location: The Westin William Penn, 530 William Penn Way, Mellon Square, Pittsburgh, PA 15219. The Westin is Pittsburgh's recently renovated Grande Hotel, located in the heart of the city's "Golden Triangle," the downtown business, financial and cultural district. The Westin William Penn is on the city block surrounded by William Penn Way, Oliver Ave., Grant St. and Sixth Ave.

Accommodations: A block of rooms has been reserved at the Westin William Penn for NASC Conference participants at a special room rate of \$79 per night (single or double occupancy) until July 14, 2000 at 5:00 PM. Please reserve rooms directly through the hotel at (412) 281-7100, and reference NASC for the special conference rate. **Reservations should be made as soon as possible, but no later than July 14, 2000 at 5:00 PM**

Transportation: The Westin William Penn is 18 miles (30 minutes) from the Greater Pittsburgh International Airport. Airline Transportation Co. provides transportation from the airport to the hotel every ½ hour on weekdays and every hour on weekends at a cost of \$12 one way and \$20 round trip. Taxis and public transportation are also available.

NASC Elections

Four (4) Executive Board positions will be filled by election at the 2000 Conference. For two of the positions, existing Board members will be running for re-election. The other two Board positions are "open seats." All Board members are elected to two-year terms. Any member of NASC can serve on the Executive Board, as long as that member is a current or former staff member from a sentencing commission or a similar governmental body. If you are interested in running for one of the NASC Executive Board positions this year, or if you would like to nominate another NASC member to serve on the Board, please contact the NASC President, Deb Dailey, by e-mail at deb.dailey@state.mn.us.

Conference Registration

Name: _____ *For room planning purposes, please indicate your preferences for breakout sessions below. Select one*
Title: _____ *choice per session. Application pending for CLE credits.*

Course Selection

⁰⁰Hotel reservations must be made separately. Contact the Westin William Penn (412) 281-7100 by July 14,2000 for NASC rate